

Dear Neighbor,

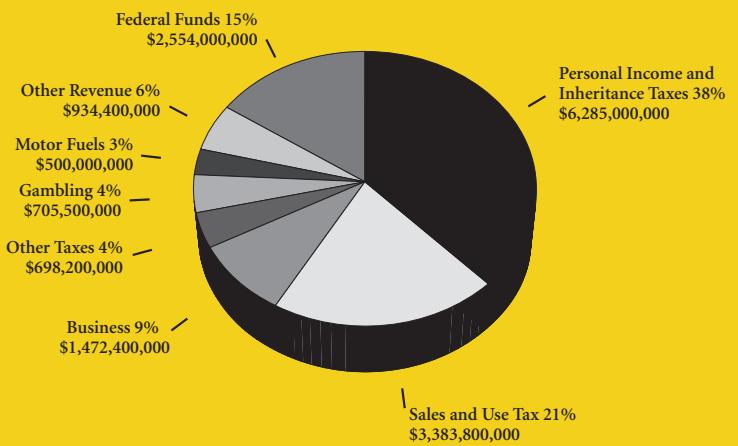
I am often asked questions on where the state derives its revenue and how it is spent. The chart below provides an overview of revenue and spending. I hope you find it informative in this regard.



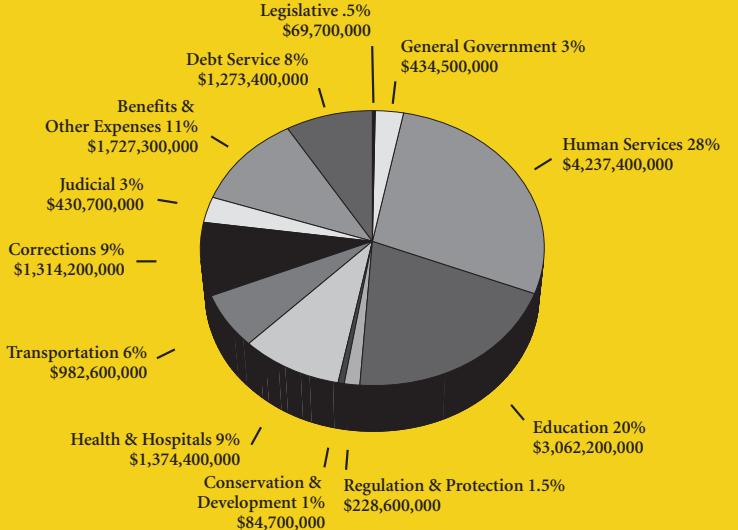
BUDGET ENDING JUNE 30, 2006

The 2006 general fund and the special transportation fund spends \$15.2 billion.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

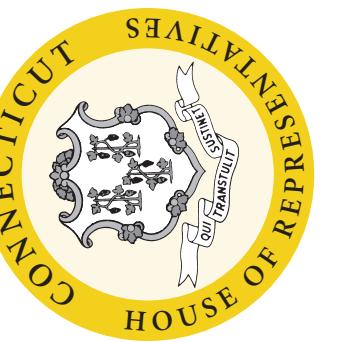


WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



*In addition to an expected surplus, the difference between expenditures and revenues is due to tax refunds.

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State Representative



LEN GREENE
Proudly Serving the 105th District
Ansonia ★ Beacon Falls ★ Seymour

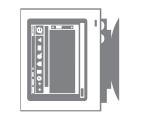
Representative Len Greene
Room 4200, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

TELEPHONE:

(800) 842-1423

E-MAIL:

len.greene@housegop.ct.gov



PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.housegop.ct.gov

2006 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



State Representative
LEN GREENE
Proudly Serving the 105th District
Ansonia ★ Beacon Falls ★ Seymour



Rep. Greene speaks on the floor of the House of Representatives during the 2006 Session.

SENIORS

Homecare Oversight

Public Act 06-187 will help protect the interests of senior citizens by requiring companies providing homemaker or companion services to obtain a certificate of registration from the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP). It also gives DCP authority to suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue the registration or take other disciplinary measures in response to violations of the bill.

Under the bill, beginning October 2006, these agencies must require new employees to undergo comprehensive background checks and take specified factors into account when making employment decisions based on the checks. Homecare agencies must also provide their clients with written individualized contracts or service plans that identify the services' scope, type, frequency, and duration. In addition, agencies that enter into a contract with a client's family must detail exact compensation.

Property Tax Freeze

Public Act 06-176 allows municipalities to freeze the property taxes on homes owned by certain elderly people. To be eligible, the homeowner or his spouse must be age 70 or older and have lived in the state at least one year. The freeze continues for a surviving spouse who is at least age 62 when the homeowner dies. Homeowners must meet the same income limits as apply to the existing state-reimbursed "circuit breaker" program, which currently gives qualified homeowners age 65 or over a tax credit against the property taxes on their homes.

Living Wills

Public Act 06-195 updates state law regarding the use of living wills. The legislation addresses issues that allow for more effective utilization of living wills, including authorizing a person's chosen health care representative to make health care decisions if they are incapable of personally expressing those wishes.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Reducing Hospital Infections

Public Act 06-160 will help reduce infections acquired in hospitals, which can lead to very serious medical problems. The legislation creates a committee to develop a mandatory reporting system for all healthcare associated infections. In addition, the report must be posted on the Department of Public Health website and be available to the public. Because this legislation establishes a detailed reporting system, it marks an excellent step toward reducing such infections.

Improving Hospital Admission Process

In many cases, a patient's primary care physician has no involvement in their hospitalization process. This system can be detrimental to the comfort level of the patient but can also prevent their primary doctor from offering important personal medical history and information at a crucial time. Public Act 06-195 requires the Quality of Care Advisory Commission to make recommendations on best practices concerning communications between patients' primary care providers and other providers involved in patient care. The commission must make its recommendations to the Department of Public Health by January 1, 2008.

Direct Access To Physical Therapy

Under current law, physical therapists can only treat patients referred to them by a physician or other healthcare practitioner. Public Act 06-125 allows patients to be directly treated by physical therapists and specifies procedures they must follow in treating patients directly.

EDUCATION

Bullying in Schools

Public Act 06-115 will help reduce incidents of bullying in our schools. The legislation expands the definition of bullying to include overt acts directed at another student with the intent to harass that student and includes incidents that occur on a school bus. It also requires that students be notified every year about how to make bullying reports and requires school policies to better provide for interventions by school personnel.

TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVES

\$2.3 Billion Package

Public Act 06-136 will provide for improvements to highways and mass transit in all corners of the state, allocating \$2.3 billion over a 10-year period. Projects to be funded include capitol improvements to branch rail lines and \$60 million for new parking and rail stations on New Haven Line.

Other projects that will be funded include: the restoration commuter rail service between New Haven and Springfield, MA; the renovation of rail cars for use on Shore Line East, the New Haven-Springfield Line and Branch Lines and dredging of the state's commercial ports. It is important to note the bill does not include previous proposals for increasing the state gasoline tax or bringing back highway tolls. The package will be funded through revenue bonds.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Prohibiting "Phishing"

Public Act 06-50 outlaws prohibit email "phishing," which is typically a scam that uses email "spam" or pop-up messages to deceive people into disclosing their credit card numbers, bank account information, Social Security number, passwords, or other sensitive information. The bill will specifically prohibit the practice in Connecticut, making any violation a Class D felony.

Protection Against Identity Theft

Public Act 06-60 outlaws small scanners and reencoders that can be used to create fake credit cards. This is an ever increasing problem throughout the country and the bill is a positive step towards protecting our residents. Penalties for violating the new law include up to 10 years imprisonment, fines of up to \$10,000 or both.

Home Weatherization Incentives

Public Act 06-187 exempts residential weatherization and energy efficiency products and energy efficient heating equipment from the sales tax for 13 months, from June 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007. The exemption applies to insulation; programmable thermostats; water heater blankets; window film; window and door weather strips; caulking; water heaters, gas furnaces, and windows that meet federal Energy Star standards; and oil furnaces that are at least 85% efficient.

SPENDING AND TAXES

2006-2007 State Budget

There were several good points in the 2005-2007 budget package that was approved this year. These include:

- Providing a welcome tax break. The maximum property tax credit on the state income, which was scheduled to rise from \$350 to \$400, will instead be raised to \$500.
- Allocating \$190 million to the Rainy Day Fund. This fund, established in the wake of enacting the state income tax in the early 1990s, played a vital role in cushioning the impact on taxpayers when the state hit difficult economic times a decade later.
- To help promote business development, it repeals the 15 percent corporation tax credit surcharge in 2007 and offer tax credits for companies that hire displaced workers and create at least 50 new, full-time jobs.

Based on a statutory formula:

Ansonia will receive \$14,293,319, an increase of \$444,950. It will also receive a one-time revenue sharing grant of \$247,426.

Beacon Falls will receive \$3,705,172, an increase of \$64,162. It will also receive a one-time revenue sharing grant of \$32,922.

Seymour will receive \$9,308,004, an increase of \$195,385. It will also receive a one-time revenue sharing grant of \$109,367.

Saving For Education

The state budget package also creates a deduction on the state income tax for contributions to the Connecticut Higher Education Trust (CHET--the state-sponsored college savings plan). It will allow taxpayers to carry forward any unused deductions for the five following years as long as each deduction does not exceed the annual maximums, which are \$5,000 for single filers and \$10,000 for joint filers.



Rep. Greene reviews bills with his Legislative Aide, Jason Schuetz, in the House Chamber.